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# DAILY DIGEST

pared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXII, No. 61

Section 1

March 29, 1939

**PRESIDENT'S COTTON PLAN** President Roosevelt stepped into the cotton surplus problem yesterday with a proposal to employ export bounties to reduce the huge stocks held in this country and reopen the world markets for American-grown fibre.

The immediate objective, the President said, was to build a "spillway" for the 11,000,000 bales of surplus cotton now held under government loans and thereby to circumvent the threatened decline of American cotton exports to the lowest point in more than 50 years.

Specifically, the plan calls first for a payment of \$1.25 a bale to producers who release their loan cotton to the market, and, second, for a "moderate payment," the size of which the President did not fix, on all cotton exported after the plan goes into operation.

He further suggested import quotas on cotton materials, such as would "protect both the domestic producers of raw cotton and probably domestic manufacturers as well from foreign importations." The whole plan would require but little new legislation.

The purpose, he said, was to provide for the orderly merchandising of our excessive supplies, the maintenance of "our fair share" of the world market, the protection of producer income, and the cheapest possible way out of the surplus problem created by the cotton loan policies.

There was no intention to break the world price, he insisted, or to undersell other countries in the international cotton markets. Most of the extra foreign sales, he said, would be effected through negotiations with other countries. (New York Times.)

**USDA SUPPLY BILL PASSED** A quarter of a billion dollars, earmarked for parity payments to farmers, last night was thrown out of the Agriculture Department's appropriation bill by a paradoxical House coalition of economy advocates and spenders, says a report in the Baltimore Sun. To disallow the \$250,000,000 of parity payments to wheat, cotton, corn, rice and tobacco growers, the House last evening reversed action it had taken during the last afternoon. In committee status it approved the appropriation by a vote of 175 to 171. Upon leaving committee status the House was called upon to go on the record and voted 204 to 191 against the parity payments. This done, the House, with a voice vote, passed the rest of the Agriculture Department's supply bill for 1940, still containing nearly \$1,000,000,000, including \$500,000,000 for the benefit-paying soil conservation program.

March 29, 1939

Research in Dr. Henry G. Knight, Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry  
Tung Oil & Soils, addressed the American Tung Oil Association this  
week on "Research in Tung Oil." He said in part: "Three  
field laboratories are now being set up to carry on investigations per-  
taining to the production of tung oil in this country. One of these will  
be located at Bogalusa, Louisiana, one at Gainesville, Florida, and one  
at Cairo, Georgia. The laboratories at Gainesville, Florida, and Bogalusa,  
Louisiana, will be cooperative between the Bureau of Plant Industry and  
the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils. To begin with there will be two  
chemists and a number of agronomists located at each of the two new field  
laboratories. These scientists will devote their full time to the various  
phases of tung oil research. Some of the agronomists are already on the  
job. The chemical laboratories are being equipped and will open around  
the first of May...The 4 million pounds of tung oil produced in the United  
States in 1938 was a good showing for the short time we have been engaged  
in this new undertaking, but 4 million pounds of tung oil is not a drop  
in the bucket compared to the more than 100 million pounds that we im-  
port and consume in this country each year. So there is nothing to fear  
from the standpoint of overproduction, certainly not in the very near  
future."

Texas Cotton The 1-32 inch increases in the staple length of Texas  
Improvement cotton in 1938 over that of 1937 meant better than  
\$3,000,000 to farmers, according to H. H. Williamson, di-  
rector of the Texas Extension Service. The 1-32 inch over-all increase in  
staple brought an additional 20 points in price, or \$1.00 per bale, he  
explained. The 22,589 farmers in the 213 one-variety cotton communities,  
with less than 7 percent of the 1938 Texas cotton acreage, cut more than  
a third of the \$3,000,000 melon for themselves when their quality cotton  
brought in an extra \$1,139,211.00. With the 632,897 acres in organized  
one-variety cotton blocks bringing in almost \$2 per acre extra through  
increased staple length and care in harvesting and ginning, the director  
estimated that Texas cotton farmers would have received an additional  
\$16,040,206 from the 1938 crop had all of the 9,153,000 acres planted to  
cotton been similarly handled. (Houston Chronicle, March 19.)

Cotton "Further improvements on our cotton harvester have  
Harvester brought it to a point where it has harvested 97 percent of  
the cotton from seven varieties at College Station, Texas,  
and 98.8 percent from thirteen varieties at Lubbock, Texas," announces  
A. B. Conner, director, Texas Experiment Station. "The burs were ex-  
tracted and the green bolls, green leaves and trash removed by an extractor  
mounted on the same tractor with the harvester. The machine-stripped  
cotton graded one grade lower than hand-pulled cotton from thirteen  
varieties at Lubbock." (Country Gentleman, April.)

March 29, 1939

Lockers for  
Farmers

In an article, "Cold Lockers Widen Farm Diet," by Velo Butz, in the Prairie Farmer (March 25), the author reports that between 5,000 and 10,000 persons are using cold storage lockers in Illinois, and says in part: "So far most attention has been directed toward the meat side of the picture, but fruits and vegetables are rapidly coming into the scene. Already strawberries, cherries, cranberries, broccoli, brussels sprouts, corn, peas, and many other fruits and vegetables grown last summer are being served every day throughout the year in farm and urban homes both in and out of the state. Patrons of the Bloomington (community) locker either slaughter their own beesves or have it done by a butcher cooperating with the locker. The butcher will haul an animal five miles, slaughter and quarter it, and deliver it to the cold storage plant in return for the hide and intestine fat. Farmers or town people owning hogs can also have him butcher and halve their hogs at a cost of 50 cents a hundred. After the meat is completely chilled out at 35 degrees Fahrenheit, it is moved to the cutting-room where it is cut, wrapped, weighed and labeled according to the kind of cut and weight, and then frozen. White paper is used for chicken and pork and tan paper for beef. The Bloomington plant at first used ordinary butcher paper, but this offered difficulties from wetting and left the meat with a pronounced paper taste. Paper waxed on only one side is used now. This permits the operators to label the various packages."

BAE Wheat  
Situation

A domestic wheat crop this year of 685,000,000 bushels, representing a sharp reduction from the 930,000,000 bushels produced last season, is indicated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This estimate is about equal to the ten year (1928-37) average disappearance, the bureau added. Sharply curtailed seedings and the December 1 condition report indicated a winter wheat production of around 485,000,000 bushels, and average yields on the reduced spring wheat acreage indicated in the prospective planting report of March 17 would produce 200,000,000 bushels. This would bring the total for all wheat, including durum, to 685,000,000 bushels. On this basis, the bureau said, the large domestic carryover now indicated for July 1 would be reduced during the 1939-40 season by the amount of United States exports to about 275,000,000 bushels. World wheat carryover in July is expected to be more than double the 595,000,000 bushels of last year, the report said. The bureau said that changes in wheat prices in the next month or two are expected to depend partly upon marketing of the Argentine surplus. Thus far this season, Argentina has showed no willingness to dump wheat on world markets. (Wall Street Journal, March 25.)

Fortune  
Articles

April Fortune contains "The U.S. Budget--Revised." The article weighs the case for the double budget, separating it into "operation" and "investment". Another article is "Migratory Labor: A Social Problem," with watercolors and photographs. It discusses the problem of migrant farm workers, particularly in California.

Senate, Passed H.R. 4630, War Department Appropriation Bill  
Mar. 27 for 1940.

Debated S.Res. 107, opposing sales of American cotton during the present world crisis to foreign purchasers below the cost of production.

House, Agreed to H.Res. 130, providing for an investigation Mar. 27 of the Works Progress Administration by the Committee on Appropriations.

Agreed to the Senate amendments to H.R. 3801, to extend the time for retirement of cotton pool participation trust certificates (this bill will now be sent to the President).

Agreed to H.Con.Res. 11, continuing the special Joint Committee on Forestry.

Mr. Tarver inserted in the Record a statement from the Soil Conservation Service in opposition to the amendment (in the agricultural appropriation bill) by Mr. Johnson of Okla. to reduce the amount spent by that organization in D.C. Mr. Peterson of Ga. spoke in opposition to the farm tenancy loans and in favor of purchasing farm mortgages as a method of farm relief.

Received letters from the Secretary of Agriculture transmitting proposed bills, as follows: amending the act for the establishment of the Bureau of Animal Industry; amending sections 2 and 7 of the U. S. Grain Standards Act, to Com. on Agriculture; to fix standards for till baskets and boxes; climax baskets, hampers, round-stave baskets, drums, market baskets, barrels, cartons, crates, boxes, sacks and other containers for fruits and vegetables, to Com. on Coinage, Weights and Measures.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Montana Livestock Montana farmers, through practical farm planning in cooperation with the Farm Security Administration, achieved a sharp increase in livestock holdings in 1938, a survey shows. Farmers on the FSA program for their first year increased range sheep and cattle from about 3,500 to 18,500. They owned 14 percent more work animals at the end of the year. Milk cows increased 155 percent. These farmers owned only 197 hogs in 1937. Twelve months later they had 4,500 hogs and gilts. The number of poultry increased 74 percent. With the increase in livestock was a corresponding increase in food produced on the farm for home consumption. Sixty-six percent more meat was butchered in 1938 than in 1937 and 21 percent more eggs used. Consumption of milk increased 71 percent. "Cash income is not the only estimate of a farmer's success," Thomas Horsford, state FSA director, said. "When a farm family produces subsistence needs, money becomes available for other necessities." (Great Falls Tribune, March 19.)

Potato Planter A new potato planter, which comes in 1 and 2 row sizes and in both team and tractor style, is designed to give better seeding control. Planting depths and distances are precise. There are easy adjustments for different sizes of seeds and special provisions to prevent clogging. (Country Home Magazine, April.)

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Section 1

March 30, 1939

**COTTON EXPORT  
PROPOSAL**

"In virtual reply to President Roosevelt's proposal for an export subsidy to help move the huge American cotton surplus into the world market, a group of southern Senators determined yesterday to push a 2-point plan of their own designed to extend benefits to the domestic producers," says Turner Catledge in the New York Times. "The program, as developed at a meeting called by Senator Smith, chairman of the Agriculture Committee, proposed: redistribution to the farmers of a maximum of 3,000,000 bales from the 11,000,000-bale surplus held under government loans; such distribution to be at the rate of 3 cents a pound and in consideration for further acreage reductions by the farmers on this year's crop; payment to the farmers of up to 3 cents a pound on cotton produced on reduced allotments made under the soil conservation program, retired loan cotton not to be eligible for the grower's bonus..."

Agriculture Department officials said the private exporter probably would be the "key" figure in operation of the cotton export subsidy program proposed by President Roosevelt, according to an Associated Press report. They said the government would announce it would pay a bounty, probably between 2 and 3 cents a pound, on all cotton sold abroad after a certain date. Because there is a limited amount of cotton in domestic markets, the only source where the exporter could get an ample supply would be in warehouses where the staple is stored as collateral for loans the government has made to farmers.

President Roosevelt's endorsement of a plan for an export subsidy to reduce the cotton surplus, and concurrent arrangements to protect domestic producers from a boost in imports or loss of their export market met with widespread approval among selling agents and trade association executives in the cotton goods industry yesterday, says a report in the New York Times. Many thought, however, that there was little likelihood of immediate inauguration of such a program.

**REORGANIZATION  
REPORT**

Congress granted President Roosevelt broad authority to consolidate government agencies and eliminate their overlapping functions when the House approved a compromise reorganization bill yesterday and sent it to the White House. The measure was approved on a voice vote. Congress retained for itself the right to veto presidential reorganization orders. Such orders would become effective automatically within 60 days of their submission to Congress, however, unless both Senate and House turned them down within that period. (A.P.).

March 30, 1939

New Tail-  
Wheel Tire

Farm Machinery and Equipment (March) reports that there is a new pneumatic tire for the tail wheels of plows. The tread of the tire, instead of being in the center of the casing, is set at a sharp angle to the sidewalls, for resistance to sidewall wear, both on the ground and while against the furrow wall. The new tire is protected against ground wear by a heavy angular tread and against furrow wall chafing by a thick protecting rubber flange. This tire enables the plow to pass through the soil with less vibration to the plowing depth, the tires absorbing much of the ground irregularity that usually causes the steel wheeled plow to rock. It requires less adjustment because mud and trash do not accumulate on the wheels.

Cash Income  
from Sheep

The cash income of \$235,000,000 to producers of sheep, lambs, and wool in 1938 was markedly lower than the 9-year high of \$308,817,000 in 1937, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports. The drop in income from these sources followed the general trend in farm income which increased materially from 1933 through 1937 only to lose a part of the gain in 1938. Reporting income from sheep and lambs and income from wool separately, the Bureau said that in 1937 the estimated cash farm income from sheep and lambs reached \$191,000,000--more than twice as large as the record low of 1932, but somewhat less than the record high of 1929. This upturn, the third in a series of three broad swings in cash income from sheep and lambs since 1909, was attributed by the Bureau to the improved consumer demand for meats and the rise in wool prices which accompanied the recovery in business conditions after 1932. In 1938, sheep and lamb prices declined somewhat as a result of weakness in consumer demand and a moderate increase in the numbers of sheep and lambs marketed. Cash income from sheep and lambs in 1938 totaled \$165,000,000, about 14 percent less than in 1937.

Agricultural  
Exports

Ability of the United States to export wheat at competitive prices was demonstrated again in February, in which month sales of this commodity to overseas sources were increased from 8,643,000 bushels a year previously to 8,762,000 bushels last month, according to the Department of Commerce. The market value decreased, however, in the twelve months by \$4,000,000, or from \$9,376,000 to \$5,379,000. Food products exports by this country for eight months ended with February, were priced at \$253,752,000, a decline of 2 percent from the \$259,841,000 reported correspondingly for last year. Last month a decrease of 33 percent in the value of exports was recorded, the totals being \$39,401,000 for February, 1938, and \$26,505,000 for February, 1939. Food imports in February were 2 percent off from a year previously--the figures being \$41,582,000 and \$47,051,000. (New York Times.)

State Trade  
Barriers

The March issue of State Government is devoted to trade barriers among the states. It contains "a few examples of trade barrier bills and retaliatory legislation which have been introduced in a number of State legislatures this year. There are dozens more now pending in these and other States. Many of these bills have been called forth in response to discriminatory legislation already passed in other States. Doubtless others are intended to bolster up declining industries which are thought to be important to the State's welfare. Some, no doubt, seek new sources for necessary State revenues. But without exception they are the symptoms of an economic disease, which if not checked, will result in the paralysis of internal trade in the United States. Already, it is evident that this new complication is sapping the strength of our domestic economy at a time when all its energies are necessary if its convalescence is to result in complete recovery. Perhaps the greatest menace to the internal economy of the United States today is the growth of such trade barriers among the States..."

Tenant Home  
Improvement

"Tenant homes, often poorly built and shoddily furnished, have constituted one of the major problems in Arkansas where 63 percent of the population is tenant," says Mena Hogan, author of "The Tenant and His Home" in Southern Agriculturist (April). She reports that the Arkansas Extension Service two years ago started a Homemade Homes Campaign. "The College of Agriculture," the article says in part, "drew up a large number of house plans suitable for tenant families. These houses designed for minimum cost embodied convenient features not ordinarily found in the shotgun type house. Many are adaptations of plans in common use throughout the Delta made after a great deal of study as to reasons why the houses were built 'thus and so'. Often changes involved only the turning of the house about, the addition of a small porch, the breaking of the pitch of a roof, the re-apportioning of space between windows and doors, or the addition of closet space. 'Better homes mean better tenants' is the theory behind the housing program being carried out by the Holden brothers, owners of more than 10,000 acres of land in Jackson County. The landscape along Highway No. 67 leading out of Newport to St. Louis is dotted with attractive white tenant houses with green roofs. These are a few of the 148 houses on the Holden farms...About a third of the 148 houses on the farms are comparatively new, but in the near future approximately another third will be replaced with new buildings. The remaining houses are being repaired. White paint, new green composition roofs, and screened-in back porches distinguish these homes from the usual type of tenant house. Several houses were given a stucco coating instead of the paint. Tenants and sharecroppers alike have shared in the housing improvement. Year by year other improvements will be added as funds permit and as they are needed..."

Public Servants "The chances are that the name of Hugh Hammond Bennett will be better known a hundred years from now than it is today," says Albert W. Atwood, in the third of a series of items on "Unsung Heroes of Public Servants," in the April Reader's Digest. "At 57 he is chief of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, created to carry out the ideas that Bennett has been urging since he entered government service in 1903. He was the first man to develop a national plan for measuring erosion and to work out methods of control...Five years of operation have proved the soundness of his ideas. Farmers are learning the value of proper cultivation, terraces, dams; they are using grasses, lespedeza and tress to anchor soil and check flood waters...During 36 years of government work Bennett could have stepped successfully into the commercial world. But he has found public service far too exciting and satisfying to consider giving it up."

Senate, Mar. 28 The conference report on H.R. 4425, reorganization bill, was submitted and agreed to in the Senate.

Began debate on S. 572, to provide for acquisition of strategic and critical raw materials, etc., for military use in emergency.

Adjourned until Thursday, March 30.

House, Mar. 28 Passed H.R. 5269, agricultural appropriation bill for 1940.

The following amendments were agreed to: by Mr. Johnson of Okla., limiting expenditures of the S.C.S. in D.C. to \$1,800,000; by Mr. Moser, striking out "Total, Farm Tenant Act, \$31,950,230" (Mr. Cannon of Mo. said this amendment did not affect the bill, since it only struck out the total).

For parity payments item, see page 1, Daily Digest March 29.

A point of order by Mr. Taber against forest roads and trails was sustained, but the item was restored after being amended.

The following amendments were rejected: by Mr. Jones of Tex., providing \$60,000,000 additional for the F.S.C.C.; by Mr. Shafer of Wis., striking out International Production Control Committees; by Mr. Johnson of Okla., increasing the farm tenancy item from \$24,584,500 to \$50,000,-000; by Mr. Taber, striking out the farm tenancy item.

Amendments by Messrs. Case of S.D. and Rees of Kans., limiting the amount of soil conservation payments to any one person, were ruled out of order.

The following changes were made in the bill on the floor of the House: Increases, insects affecting man and animals, \$6,500, market news service, \$2,500;

Items eliminated, parity payments, Mexican fruitfly control, citrus canker eradication; gypsy browntail moth control, Dutch elm disease eradication; Limitation, expenditures of S.C.S. in D.C. limited to \$1,800,000; Changes in language, requiring twine purchased by the Department to be of domestic materials, changes under sweetpotato weevil control and forest roads and trails.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

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Section 1

March 31, 1939

**COTTON SURPLUS PROPOSALS**

Ignoring President Roosevelt's suggestion for a cotton export subsidy, the Senate Agriculture Committee approved yesterday a bill which would permit farmers to reclaim up to 3,000,000 bales of stocks now held as collateral for government loans. At the same time the committee sent on to the Senate a "cost of production" farm bill sponsored by Senator Frazier of North Dakota and 16 other Senators. It would substitute government price fixing on a long list of farm commodities for the present program of crop and marketing controls. Senator Bankhead, author of the cotton proposal, said it involved "subsidizing the American producer instead of the foreign buyer." Under it, the Alabama Senator explained, cotton growers could reclaim loan stocks by paying 3 cents a pound and substitute the loan cotton for new crops under their production allocations. He said growers would realize a profit on the difference between the market price, now about 8 cents a pound, and the 3 cents they paid for the cotton. (A.P.)

**SOUTHERN PROBLEMS**

Whether the South is the nation's No. 1 economic problem received conflicting answers last night at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, from Senator Bailey of North Carolina, President Graham of the University of North Carolina and John Rust, co-inventor of the cotton-picking machine. Senator Bailey cited data on wages and income and what he termed "simple facts of current record" in his contention that "there is no nation's problem here except the problem of a just national policy." Dr. Graham, member of the Southern Economic Council, took a different view, saying: "...We have the most eroded soils, the poorest housing and health record, the least organization of labor, the most tenants and sharecroppers, the lowest wages and purchasing power, the highest interest rate, the highest illiteracy, the least per capita book circulation, the lowest proportion of students in high school and college." Mr. Rust stated that the South was not only the nation's No. 1 economic problem but was also the nation's No. 1 economic opportunity (New York Times).

**OIL, FAT TAXES**

The Senate Finance Committee rejected yesterday proposals to increase the tax on imported vegetable oils and fats from 3 to 5 cents a pound. It acted after committee members had learned President Roosevelt had threatened to veto the increase if attached to a bill authorizing reciprocal taxation of federal-state salaries. (A.P.).

March 31, 1939

Sheep-Lamb  
Situation

Slaughter supplies of sheep and lambs from April through June will be considerably smaller than in the same period last year, says the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The early spring lamb crop probably will be slightly smaller this year than last. But the number of early lambs available for slaughter before July 1 will be materially smaller than a year earlier, because of the poor condition of lambs in California and Texas. A large proportion of the early lambs in these two States will not reach slaughter weights and condition before July as a result of the unfavorable feed situation. It is also expected that marketings of grass fat yearlings from Texas will be much smaller this spring than last. Conditions have been much more favorable in the other early lamb producing States than in California and Texas. In the Southeastern States, the proportion of ewes lambed up to March 1 was smaller than last year and hardly equal to average. Marketings of lambs from this area before July 1 probably will be about the same as a year earlier. In Idaho, Oregon and Washington weather has been favorable for shed lambing and feed has been abundant and cheap.

"New Skills for Old Jobs" says an editorial, "New Skills for Old Jobs," in the Progressive Farmer (April). "...Take sweet potatoes.

South Carolina has always produced sweet potatoes--but about 57 shapes, sizes, and varieties stored in old-fashioned potato hills. 'No money in potatoes,' said Mr. Farmer. 'No money in potatoes handled that way,' said Clemson Agricultural College. Instead it advocated concentrating on one variety; storing in potato houses that prevent winter damage; having all potatoes strictly and scientifically graded and standardized, attractively boxed and labeled; all the potatoes in one crate as much alike as two black-eye peas..."

H. I. Caston, in an item on a community sweet potato project in Boiling Springs, says "funds were secured for a new sweet potato curing and storage house through the Farm Security Administration and the Works Progress Administration. The F.F.A. chapter assisted materially by constructing 5,100 storage crates in the farm shop...Crates of similar dimensions, weight, and construction would have cost the community center about 15 cents each. The materials cost 9 cents per crate, thus saving \$306. Nearly all of this was passed on to the farmers as the crates were sold for 10 cents each. And the local farmers were quick to take advantage of the new facilities offered them. When fall came 5,700 bushels of potatoes were stored in the house. According to results of a previous survey, at least half would have rotted if there had been no storage facilities. In addition, the stored potatoes were of much better quality than they would have been if they had been stored in banks. And better-quality potatoes of course brought better prices..."

**Bankruptcies Decrease** Bankruptcies among farmers in the United States numbered 1,799 in the 12 months ended June 30, 1938, according to an analysis by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics based on reports received by the Attorney General. This number of bankruptcies represented a 27 percent decrease from the 2,479 bankruptcies in the fiscal year 1936-37, and compares with a peak of 7,872 in the fiscal year 1924-25. The number of farmer bankruptcies decreased in 1938, compared with 1937, in each of the major geographical regions of the country. There were small increases, however, in a few States, including Connecticut, New York, Nebraska, West Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Wyoming, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada. There was no change in Rhode Island, Indiana, and New Mexico. All other States showed declines, the largest occurring in Alabama, with a drop from 126 in 1937 to 38 in 1938. The East South-Central division, which includes Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama, showed the largest percentage decrease of the nine major geographic regions.

**Farm Cash Income** Cash income from farm marketings in February totaled \$430,000,000, it is estimated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This total was 6 percent below the \$456,000,000 estimated for February 1938 and 26 percent less than the \$578,000,000 reported for January this year. The usual decline from January is about 12 to 15 percent. Government payments to farmers in February of \$56,000,000 were well above the \$31,000,000 paid out in February 1938 and the \$41,000,000 in January. Including Government payments, farm cash income this February totaled \$486,000,000, compared with \$487,000,000 in February 1938 and \$619,000,000 in January.

**Federal-State Wildlife Plan** Forty-seven States have indicated that they wish to participate in the new Federal-State cooperative plan for wildlife restoration, reports the Bureau of Biological Survey... Under the Pittman-Robertson Act, Congress appropriated \$1,000,000 to inaugurate the program in the year begun July 1, 1938. The funds are available for conducting studies in wildlife management, developing and improving publicly owned or leased areas, and purchasing other lands desirable for wildlife restoration. Proposals for 67 projects have been submitted by 31 States. Of these, 32 have been approved and funds set aside. The early projects submitted by the States were predominantly for management studies. Texas and New York are making game surveys. Colorado is making a detailed study of deer and elk; Utah, beavers; Wyoming, bighorn sheep; Pennsylvania, fur animal resources; Massachusetts, black ducks and Canada geese on the coastal waters; Virginia, the distribution of wild turkeys; Vermont, the abundance of game from season to season; Michigan, the management of raccoons; and New Hampshire, a combination demonstration and research program with particular emphasis on the ring-necked pheasant. A State's participation depends on legislative assent to the Act and upon the enactment of wildlife-conservation laws, which shall include a prohibition against the diversion of hunting license fees for any purpose other than the administration of the State fish and game department.

House, Passed H.R. 5427, Labor Department appropriation bill Mar. 29 for 1940, which was reported from the Committee on Appropriations (H.Rept. 333).

The Committee on appropriations reported without amendment H.J.Res. 246, making an additional appropriation of \$100,000,000 for relief 1939 (H.Rept. 332).

The Senate was not in session.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Rural Unless settlement of unproductive isolated farms is Zoning restricted in the future by county and state action, many county governments will face heavily increased expenses for relief and public services without a compensating gain in tax revenues. This is the conclusion in "Rural Zoning and Your County," a booklet by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Rural zoning, it points out, can prevent new settlement of poor and isolated farms that otherwise is likely to occur in areas where population pressure is increasing. Families on this type of land seldom earn more than \$100 to \$200 per year and often are forced to seek relief assistance. By preventing new settlement in isolated areas unsuited to farming, and by providing for the gradual voluntary retirement of farms already in those areas, rural communities would tend to become more compact. This, it is said, would reduce sharply the costs for small rural schools and little-traveled roads. Figures cited for a typical township show that public expenditures outweigh local tax receipts by 9 to 1. The booklet outlines the procedure by which zoning ordinances may be adopted by counties to give maximum protection to property owners in restricted zones.

Bee Culture The April number of Gleanings in Bee Culture says Laboratories editorially: "Attention is drawn to the work being done on the Pacific Coast in the interest of beekeepers, described in this issue. There are in all over 30 government experts all working under Hambleton (Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine) at five widely separated points in the country. The beekeeper who does not keep posted on the work Uncle Sam is doing for him is missing something. For example, the work showing the importance of pollen reserves is epoch-making. J. I. Hambleton, the generalissimo on scientific bee culture, is to be congratulated."

Farm Price For the third consecutive month the level of local Index Down market prices for farm products decreased in March, with the result that the index of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has touched the lowest point since July 1934. The decline in March was 1 point. The mid-March index of prices received by farmers was reported by the bureau as 91 percent of prewar compared with 92 in February and with 96 in March 1938. With the lowering of the index of prices received, the exchange value of farm products declined 1 point to 76, or 1 point lower than last March. The index of prices paid by farmers, at 120 percent of prewar, was unchanged from the level reported for each of the previous three months but was five points lower than in March 1938. (New York Times.)



